

## Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 REYKJA 00345 301459 Z

46

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 EB-11 COME-00 MC-02 TRSE-00 L-03 PM-09

CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 DODE-00 AID-20 IGA-02

CG-00 OMB-01 COA-02 SS-14 NSC-10 INT-08 PA-03 USIA-12

PRS-01 RSR-01 /136 W

----- 065027

R 301405 Z MAR 73

FM AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3514

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY BONN

COMICEDEFOR

C O N F I D E N T I A L REYKJAVIK 0345

E. O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OTRA MASS IC

SUBJECT: ICELANDIC INTEREST IN COAST GUARD CUTTER

REF: STATE 055693

1. PRIME MINISTER DURING DINNER AT MY RESIDENCE LAST NIGHT, WHILE DISCUSSING SEVERAL TOPICS, SAID HE PLANNED TO CALL ME IN NEXT MONDAY TO ASK ME TO FACILITATE ACQUIRING THE COAST GUARD CUTTR FOR ICELAND. HE SAID THE INFORMAL APPROACH BY PETUR SIGURDSSON ( HEAD OF ICELANDIC COAST GUARD) TO US COAST GUARD AND BY ICELANDIC EMBASSY IN WASH NOT EFFECTIVE. HE REMARKED THAT WASH SEEMS TO HAVE THE IDEA THAT GOI WANTS TO USE THE CUTTER AGAINST UK, BUT IN REALITY THEY NEED IT FOR PATROL ACTIVITY AT WESTMANN ISLANDS VOLCANIC DISASTER. HE ADDED THAT HE HOPED A SETTLEMENT COULD BE REACHED SOON WITH UK ON FISHING DISPUTE. WHEN I ASKED HIM IF HIS REQUEST FOR THE US CUTTER MEANT GOI COAST GUARD WILL HAVE TWO VESSELS PARTOLLING WESTMANN ISLANDS INSTEAD OF ONE, HE ASKED ME TO TALK TO PETUR SIGURDSSON WHO WAS ALSO PRESENT AT THE DINNER.

2. SIGURDSSON PROCEEDED TO PULL THE RUG OUT FROM UNDER THE  
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 REYKJA 00345 301459 Z

PRIME MINISTER. HE TOLD ME THE UK FISHING BOATS WERE GETTING OBSTREPEROUS, THAT IT IS OBVIOUS UK DOES NOT WANT A SETTLEMENT OF THE FISHING DISPUTE AND THEREFORE HIS COAST GUARD NEEDS TO FREE UP THE CUTTER WHICH IS PRESENTLY PATROLLING WESTMAN ISLANDS, IN ORDER TO TURN HIS FULL FLEET AGAINST THE BRITISH TRAWLERS. HE FURTHER REMARKED THAT HE HAD EVERYTHING UNDER CONTROL, THAT HE WAS DEALING INFORMALLY AND DIRECTLY WITH THE US COAST GUARD ON THIS MATTER AND THAT HE EXPECTS TO GO TO USA IN ABOUT TWO WEEKS TO INSPECT THE VESSEL, AFTER WHICH A PRO- FORMA REQUEST FOR THE CUTTER WILL BE MADE THROUGH DIPLOMATIC CHANNELS. WHEN I ASKED HIM IF THE FRG WAS STILL FISHING WITHIN THE 50-MILE LIMIT, HE REPLIED IN THE AFFIRMATIVE, BUT SAID THE PRIME MINISTER DID NOT WANT THE COAST GUARD TO INTERFERE.

3. ON SAYING GOODNIGHT, THE PRIME MINISTER REMARKED THAT HE HOPED SIGURDSSON ALLAYED THE USG FEAR THAT THE GOI WOULD USE THE US CUTTER IN THE FISHING DISUPTE.

4. COMMENT: I WOULD SUGGEST WE LET THE MATTER SIMMER, AS WE ARE NOW DOING. IRVING

CONFIDENTIAL

\*\*\* Current Handling Restrictions \*\*\* n/a

\*\*\* Current Classification \*\*\* CONFIDENTIAL

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** n/a  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 30 MAR 1973  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** garlanwa  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1973REYKJA00345  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** n/a  
**Errors:** n/a  
**Film Number:** n/a  
**From:** REYKJAVIK  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
**ISecure:** 1  
**Legacy Key:** link1973/newtext/t19730344/aaaaiohs.tel  
**Line Count:** 88  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE  
**Office:** ACTION EUR  
**Original Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 2  
**Previous Channel Indicators:**  
**Previous Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** 73 STATE 055693  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** garlanwa  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 01 AUG 2001  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <01-Aug-2001 by willialc>; APPROVED <10-Sep-2001 by garlanwa>  
**Review Markings:**

Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
30 JUN 2005

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** <DBA CORRECTED> srp 980115  
**Subject:** ICELANDIC INTEREST IN COAST GUARD CUTTER  
**TAGS:** MASS, OTRA, IC  
**To:** EUR  
SECSTATE WASHDC INFO BONN  
COMICEDEFOR  
LONDON  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005